

# ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

FOR

**1925**

BY

J. R. GARROOD,

M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health for the Huntingdon Rural  
District Council.

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HUNTINGDON :

W. H. Smith & Son (Cooper & Co.), Printers, High Street.



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## To the Huntingdon Rural District Council.

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Gentlemen,

*I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1925, and a general survey of the last five years.*

*Owing to the death of my predecessor, Dr. Newton, in November, 1925, this survey will probably not be as valuable as it might have been had we the benefit of his knowledge.*

*I am,*

*Your obedient Servant,*

**J. R. GARROOD,**

*M.O.H., Huntingdon, R.D.C.*

# REPORT

ON THE

## Huntingdon Rural District for 1925.

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The area of the 26 Parishes forming the Huntingdon Rural District is 54,403 acres, and the population in 1921 was 6,673. The estimated population in 1925 is 6,740.

Its general characters are those of an area of highland bordering and projecting into the fens. The highland being intersected by a few valleys containing small brooks, partly dry in summer, these are tributaries of the Ouse and Nene systems.

The soil consists of boulder clay, alluvium and gravel, with peat in the fen portion. Under all these in the whole area lies the Oxford clay.

The number of inhabited houses in 1921 was 1712 and the number of separate occupiers a few more.

The Rateable value in 1921 was £60,348 and in 1925 £59,389.

The sum represented by a 1d. rate was in 1921, £251 9s. 0d. and in 1925, £247.

The population of the district consists largely of agricultural labourers, small tradesmen, and farmers, with their families.

A considerable number of those who are employed by others, in agriculture or otherwise, have allotments or other land which they work themselves as do a large number of the tradesmen.

Agriculture, necessitating as it does, considerable exposure, may be considered an exciting cause of chronic joint disease and bronchitis which are common in the elderly.

**Vital Statistics.**—The estimated population at the middle of 1925 was 6,740.

**Birth Rate.**—The births during 1925 are— Males. Females.

Legitimate	...	64	55
Illegitimate	...	3	3
		—	—
Total	... ..	67	58

This gives a rate of 18·5 per thousand.

The general Birthrate for England and Wales is 18·3 per thousand.

**Death Rate.**—The total deaths from all causes are 45 Males, 47 Females.

This gives a rate of 10·6 per thousand

The general death rate for England and Wales is 12·2.

**Infantile Mortality.**—There were 5 deaths under 1 year. 3 males and 2 females, of these 2 males were illegitimate.

The rate for England and Wales is 75 per 1000.

**Zymotic Death Rate.**—This was 0·14 per thousand, due to Measles one case. The rate for Measles for England and Wales was 0·13.

### **Causes of Death in Huntingdon Rural District, 1925.**

					Males.	Females.
All Causes	...	...	...	...	45	47
1 Enteric Fever	...	..	...	...	—	—
2 Small Pox	...	...	...	...	—	—
3 Measles	...	...	...	...	—	1
4 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6 Diphtheaia	...	...	...	...	—	—
7 Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	—
8 Encephalitis Lethargica	...	..	...	...	—	—
9 Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
10 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	—	3



					Males.	Females.
11	Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	1	2
12	Cancer, Malignant disease	...	...	...	6	6
13	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	—	—
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	2
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	1	3
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	8	7
17	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	2	1
18	Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	4
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	2	2
20	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	—	—
21	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	1	—
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	—
23	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	—	—
24	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	1	—
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	—	2
26	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
27	Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition...	...	...	...	—	—
28	Congenital debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	...	...	...	2	2
29	Suicide	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	2	—
31	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	14	11
32	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	...	...	...	1	1
Special Causes (included above)						
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year						
				{ Total ...	3	2
				{ Illegitimate ...	2	—
Total Births					67	58
Legitimate					64	55
Illegitimate					3	3
Population					6740	

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,

SOMERSET HOUSE,

LONDON, W.C. 2.

*March, 1926.*

### **Hospital Accommodation.**

No General Hospitals are provided by or subsidized by the Local Authority or the County Council.

**Tuberculosis.**—Wyton Hostel is not in the area but is provided by the County Council for Women and Children.

Papworth Colony is not in the County but is subsidized by the County Council for male cases.

**Fever.**—The Huntingdon Borough Fever Hospital is not in the area but is subsidized by the Local Authority.

**Small Pox.**—There is no provision for Small Pox patients.

**Venereal Disease.**—Addenbrooks Hospital, Cambridge, not in the area is subsidized by the County Council.

**Clinics and Treatment Centres** —There are none in the area but School Clinic, Tuberculosis Clinic and V.D. Clinic are at the Offices of the County Council, Huntingdon.

**Ambulance.**—Infectious cases from the Isolation Hospital. Non-Infectious provided by the County Council.

**Public Health Officers.**—One part time Medical Officer of Health. One part time Sanitary Inspector who is also Highways Surveyor, Inspector under Shops Act, Food and Meat Inspector.

The following General Hospitals are not in the area, nor subsidized by the Local Authority, but are available for treatment—

Huntingdon County Hospital.

Workhouse Infirmary.

Addenbrooks Hospital, Cambridge.

Peterborough Infirmary.

**Nursing in the Home.**—(a) GENERAL. This is provided in the Sawtry area by a private Voluntary Association, the Local Authority does not contribute, but the County Council contributes in return for School and child welfare services.



The County Nursing Association has a spare nurse quartered in the centre of the area when not on locum duty.

(b) There is no nursing in the home for Fever cases.

**Midwives.**—There is one at Alconbury qualified by length of service. The County Nursing Association Nurse who resides at Alconbury when not otherwise employed, is also certificated. No subsidy is provided by the Local Authority.

Chemical Analyses are referred to J. West Knights, Esq.,  
Public Analyst, of Cambridge.

### Adoptive Acts.—

Public Health Acts Amendment Act	...	1890.
" "	...	1907.
Infectious Diseases Preventive Acts	...	1890.
Notification of Births Act	... ..	1907.
Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order for the District were adopted October 30th	... ..	1906

Modified Bye-Laws were adopted for the parish of Sawtry.

**Water Supply.**—This is largely from the surface, as can be understood from the geological character of the area already spoken of, and in the higher portion of the area the supply is liable to fail in a dry time, due to insufficient storage, but the very dry year 1921 with its water famine has resulted in the cleaning out of wells and ponds as well as the digging of others, so increasing the storage capacity. The subjoined tables provided by the Sanatory Inspector give the detailed conditions.

## ALCONBURY WESTON,

1925.

**Water Supply.**

Parish.	Quantity and Source.		Quality.
Alconbury	... Two pumps	Sufficient	Good
Alconbury Weston	... Two pumps	"	Indifferent
Barham	... One pond and private supplies	"	Poor
Brampton	... Private supplies	"	Variable
Buckworth	... Three wells	"	Good
Conington	... One pond and private supplies	"	Fair
Easton	... One pump	"	Good
Ellington	... Two pumps	"	Fair
Hamerton	... One pond, one pump	"	Fair
Leighton	... Two pumps	"	Fair
Raveley Magna	... One pump	"	Good
Raveley Parva	... One pump	"	Fair
Ripton Abbots	... One pond and private supplies	"	Moderate
Ripton Kings	... One well	"	Fair
Sawtry All Saints	... One reservoir and private	"	Fair
Sawtry St. Judith	... No Public Supply	—	—
Stukeley Magna	... Private Supplies	Sufficient	Fair
Stukeley Parva	... Three pumps	"	Fair
Steeple Gidding	... One pond, one well	"	Poor
Spaldwick	... Two pumps	"	Good
Hartford	... Private supplies	"	Fair
Woodwalton	... One pump, one well	"	Fair
Woolley	... One pump	"	Fair
Upwood	... Two pumps	"	Fair
Upton	... One pump	"	Fair
Wennington	... One pump, one pond	"	Fair
Coppingford	... One pump	"	Fair

F. FORTESCUE,

*Sanitary Inspector.*

Generally the Villages which have wells in the alluvial gravel are sufficiently supplied and there has been no evidence of contamination within the period under review.

**Drainage** — Rivers and Streams are protected by filter beds and Septic Tanks in some cases, but as most of the Sewage is really only waste water this is not a serious matter at present.

In most cases the pail system of sanitation exists.

The approximate number of Earth Closets is 1800.

W.C's. 80.

Privy Vaults 10.

These figures speak for themselves. When opportunity offers conversion from privy vaults to pail closets is effected.

Public Scavenging has been provided at Brampton since 1908, the occupiers do it elsewhere.

Private Ash Bins are more used at Brampton than in other places.

**Sanitary Inspection.**—There has been a house to house inspection of the whole area, the particulars of which are contained in the Sanitary Inspector's report appended.

**Schools.**—Closure has been effected by and in consultation with the School Medical Officer. The sanitary condition is on the whole satisfactory and the staffs have shown great helpfulness in carrying out measures to check the spread of disease.

**Housing.**—80 Houses have been built by the Authority.

10           ,,           ,,           subsidized           ,,

6           ,,           ,,           built privately

in the period under review viz., 1921—1925.

On the whole these houses are very satisfactory, there is some tendency to sub-let a portion of the house, and owing to the rent the tenants are apt to be the wealthier members of their class.

There is still some shortage of houses, but I am inclined to attribute this to the fact that a number of inhabitants of villages now go to work in neighbouring towns or elsewhere, the cheapness of motor cycle transport rendering this economically possible.

Another reason is that in many cases two small cottages have been made into one.

There are however many rows of small cottages with such narrow common back yards that the conditions are by no means

ideal, ash bins and scavenging might improve them, but a good back garden would be a more scientific remedy.

**Overcrowding.**—There is some overcrowding chiefly due to the financial inability of the people with large families to rent the larger and most expensive houses, it is not very serious and at the moment no special steps to deal with it seem advisable.

**Fitness of Houses.**—This is fairly good, the chief defects consist of delapidation of roof and walls, due to neglect of owners whose property is not in many cases worth the cost of the repairs. Minor defects on the contrary are quite as often due to the unwillingness of some tenants to help themselves.

General action taken as regards unfit houses is a notice to repair or close under the Housing Acts, for details see Sanitary Inspector's report.

There have been no difficulties in remedying unfitness and water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal do not affect Housing. As the pail system and presence of gardens and allotments helps in the solution of the problem.

### **Housing Statistics, 1925.**

(a)	Total new houses erected during the year	...	16
(b)	With state assistance under the Housing Acts—		
	(i) By the local authority	... ..	0
	(ii) By other bodies or persons	... ..	10

### **Unfit Dwelling Houses. Inspection.**

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	... ..	941
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	... ..	0



(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	1
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	11
2.	Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices.			
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	1
3.	Action under Statutory Powers.			
A.	Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act 1925.			
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...			11
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—			
(a)	By owners	...	...	11
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	0
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	0
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts	...		0
C.	Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—			
(1)	Number of representations made with a view to making of Closing Orders	...		1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...		1

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-house having been rendered fit ...	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	0

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—There are no large milk retailers, for where the consumer does not actually own the cow he probably only joins with a few others in a common source of supply, this with the short time elapsing between milking and consuming mitigates the dangers to health associated with milk supply.

- (i) No action has been taken as to Tuberculous Milk and Tuberculous Cattle.
- (ii) No licences have been granted for the sale of milk under special designation classified as in the Fourth Schedule to the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1923, types of apparatus licenced for the pasteurisation of milk.
- (iii) No refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk.
- (iv.) No bacteriological examination has been made. For details see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(b) MEAT.—Inspection is made by the Sanitary Inspector. There are no Public Slaughter-houses.

#### PRIVATE SLAUGHTER-HOUSES—

	1920.	Jan. 1925.	Dec. 1925,
Registered ...	9	9	9
Licensed ...	0	9	9

(c) Other foods are also inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.



**Infectious Diseases** —The following table shows the number of cases of some of the commoner Infectious Diseases during the period :—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Scarlet Fever	8	3	2	2	59
Diphtheria...	4	2	—	3	0
Pneumonia...	7	4	—	3	5
Encephalitis					
Lethargica	1	1	—	1	1

It will be seen that there has been a considerable epidemic of **Scarlet Fever** during 1925. There had been a moderate one in 1920 which accounts for the rather higher figure for 1921. This epidemic was practically confined to the Sawtry School area, one case was infected by another which was apparantly quite well on discharge from hospital.

**Encephalitis Lethargica** or Epidemica is almost equally distributed, the 1925 case is the only one which recovered and is still well. No infection of contacts occurred.

**Chicken Pox** has been very prevalent during 1925.

**Diphtheria Antitoxin** is available at the County Medical Office free of charge.

**Pneumonia** is a small and variable factor in the health of the community and there has been no evidence of infection of contacts.

Pathological and Bacterological examinations are made through the County M.O.H.

No use has been made of the Schick or Dick tests in cases from the area.

No Vaccination has been performed by the M.O.H, under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regs. 197.

**Influenza** has occurred each year, the subjoined table of deaths will perhaps indicate its relative severity.

1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
0	2	1	5	1

**Disinfection.**—Cleansing of verminous persons is done, in the case of school children, by their parents under the direction of the School Medical Officer.

Premises exposed to infection are disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of Infectious Disease during 1925 :—

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox ... ..	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ... ..	59	45	0
Diphtheria ... ..	0	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	1 not notified	1
Puerperal Fever ... ..	0	0	0
Pneumonia ... ..	5	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	1	0	0
Chicken Pox ... ..	64	0	0

**Tuberculosis.**—The following table gives the particulars of the new cases of Tuberculosis, and deaths from the disease in the area during 1925:—

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pul.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	1	—	—	—	—	1 not	notified
10—15	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1 not notified
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 up.	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total	1	4	2	1	—	3	1	2

No action has been called for regarding Tuberculous persons in the milk trade, nor has any action been taken under Public Health Act 1925, Sect. 62.

**Factories and Workshops.**—These are inspected in the course of the routine inspections and are in a satisfactory condition.

**Bake-houses.**—All Inspected and found generally to be clean and satisfactory.

## Sanitary Inspector's Report.

ALCONBURY WESTON,

*February, 1926.*

To Dr. J. R. Garrood (Acting M.O.H.).

DEAR SIR,

Herewith is summary of work done or caused to be done during the year 1925.

1. Parishes Inspected	...	...	...	26
2. Houses, Premises, &c., Inspected	...	...	...	941
3.       ,,       ,,       Re-inspected	...	...	...	94
4. Earth Closets repaired after notice	...	...	...	2
5. New Earth Closets caused to be erected	...	...	...	2
6. Public Drains flushed, cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	29
7. Private Drains repaired after notice	...	..	...	13
8. Private Drains repaired without notice	...	...	...	6
9. Public Pumps repaired	...	...	...	7
10. Private Pumps repaired after notice	...	...	...	8
11. Houses Disinfected after Infectious Illness	...	...	...	72
12. Houses Repaired under the Town Planning Act	...	...	...	11
13. Houses Closed	...	...	...	0
14. Ashbins repaired after notice	...	...	...	3
15. Milk Sellers on Register	...	...	..	85

I am, Sir, Yours respectfully,

F. FORTESCUE, *Sanitary Inspector.*

### Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

#### Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk (Milk Sellers).—

No. in District	...	...	...	85
No. Registered	...	...	...	85
No. of Inspections of Premises	...	...	...	150
No. of Inspections during Milking Time	...	...	...	2
No. of Premises requiring Whitewashing, Cleansing, &c.	...	...	...	2
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	...	...	...	2
Have Regulations been adopted	...	...	...	Yes

#### Premises with Well Water Supply—

No. of, from which water analysed	...	...	...	None
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#### Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk (Butter and Cheese Makers).—

No. in District	...	...	...	85
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F. FORTESCUE,

*Sanitary Inspector.*

*16th February, 1926.*

### Sanitary Inspector's Report.

No. of Inspections made ... 15

No. of Notices served .. 32

(Informal 6, Statutory 26).

Complaints received ...	...	Total Number of	...	10
Premises, houses, etc. ...	...	No. inspected	...	941
		Nuisances abated	...	37
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse ...	...	No. inspected	...	All
		Nuisances abated	...	29
Animals improperly kept ...	...	No. inspected	...	Nil.
		Nuisances abated	...	Nil.
Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit ...	...	No. inspected	...	941
		Nuisances abated	...	7
Drain, Drain-traps, etc., etc. ...	...	No. inspected	...	All
		Nuisances abated	...	19
House, or part thereof, overcrowded ...	...	No. inspected	...	1
		Nuisances abated	...	1
Smoke nuisances ...	...	No. of observations	...	Nil.
		Nuisances abated	...	Nil.
Offensive accumulations ...	...	No. inspected	...	Nil.
		Nuisances abated	...	Nil.
Other sanitary conditions ...	...	No. inspected	...	Nil.
		Nuisances abated	...	Nil.
Lodging houses ...	...	No. registered	...	Nil.
		No. of inspections	...	Nil.
Slaughter houses ...	...	No. licensed or registered	...	10
		No. of inspections	...	40
Offensive trades (sec. 112 P. Health Act, 1875) ...	...	No. established	...	Nil.
		No. of inspections	...	Nil.
Canal boats ...	...	No. registered	...	Nil.
		No. of inspections	...	Nil.
		No. with infectious diseases on board	...	Nil.
Public Health Act, 1875 ...	...	No. houses condemned	...	1
		No. closed	...	Nil.
		No. cleaned & limewashed	...	Nil.



Food—seizures of unwholesome	...	No. of	...	Nil.
Infectious Diseases	...	Houses affected with	...	86
		Houses inspected	...	86
		No. of inspections	...	114
		Houses disinfected	...	61
		Schools	„	1
		Disinfectant used, Formalin Vapour Sulphur & Liq Cresolis.		
		Lots of clothing disinfected		Nil.
		„ destroyed	...	Nil.
Privy Middens	...	New provided	...	Nil.
		No. repaired	...	Nil.
		No. converted to pails	...	Nil.
		No. converted to W.C's	...	Nil.
Pail or earth closets	...	New provided	...	2
Water closets	...	New provided	...	Nil.
		No. converted to W.C's	...	Nil.
		No. supplied with water	...	Nil.
Ashpits	...	New provided	...	Nil.
		No. converted to ashbins		Nil.
Ashbins	...	New provided	...	Nil.
Water supply	...	Samples taken for analysis		Nil.
		Samples condemned	...	Nil.
		Wells closed	...	Nil.
		Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.		1
		Public supply substituted for well or pond		
		Cisterns cleansed, repaired covered	...	Nil.
		Waste pipes disconnected from drain	...	Nil.
Housing, etc., Act, 1909	...	No. houses closed	...	Nil.
		„ made habitable		Nil.
		„ demolished	...	Nil.
Building Bye Laws adopted	...		1903	
Total Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc.	...		Nil.	
Convictions	...		Nil.	



## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Workshops...	...	...	...	Total number on register (including bakehouses)	13
				Number in which nuisances abated .. ..	Nil.
Bakehouses	..	...	...	No. on register ... ..	12
				No. in which nuisance abated	Nil.
Home Work	...	...	...	No. of outworkers ...	Nil.
				No. of houses ... ..	Nil.
				No. of infected houses ...	Nil.
Legal Proceedings <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc,	...	...	..	...	Nil.
Convictions	...	..	...	...	Nil.

F. FORTESCUE,

*Sanitary Inspector.*





